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# For the Record, Peirsol Wins 200M Backstroke

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INDIANAPOLIS, July 11 -- The message from Aaron Peirsol: Stop taking my world records. For the second time this week at the U.S. swimming championships, Peirsol reclaimed a world record he had recently lost.

Saturday night, it happened in the 200-meter backstroke as Peirsol exploded over the last 100 meters to outswim Ryan Lochte and break his world record by a staggering 0.86 of a second.

Peirsol finished in 1 minute 53.08 seconds, as Lochte touched the wall in 1:54.21 and Tyler Clary in 1:54.53. North Baltimore Aquatic Club's Nick Thoman got fourth in 1:54.83.

"I'm extremely elated," Peirsol said.

Earlier this week, he took back the world record in the 100 backstroke, a mark he lost just over a week ago when a Spanish swimmer lowered it. Peirsol said his excitement about the victories was dampened knowing Japanese star Ryosuke Irie of Japan had swum faster in the 200 back in a similar high-tech suit (Irie's record was disallowed because the suit was not approved).

"I feel like, if I do the race I can, he can't catch me," said Peirsol, who wore Arena's X-Glide pants.

## Jones Claims Berth

Earlier, 2008 Olympic relay team members Garrett Weber-Gale and Cullen Jones faced off in a two-man swim-off to decide the second-place finisher in Thursday's 50 free. The pair had tied in that race.

Jones not only claimed a world championship berth with the victory, but he also broke Weber-Gale's American record (21.47), touching the wall in 21.41 seconds; Weber-Gale came home in 21.70.

Jones said he switched high-tech suits, dumping the more acclaimed Jaked01, which he wore in Thursday's 50 free final, for the older Speedo LZR.

## Morris Places Second

In the men's 1,500 freestyle, North Baltimore Aquatic Club's Brennan Morris, 17, qualified for his first world championship team with his second-place finish in 15:13.47. Morris, the boyfriend of Katie Hoff, finished behind Jackson Wilcox, who touched the wall in 15:11.98.

In a time trial at the end of the night, Dara Torres, 42, lowered her American record in the 50 fly but missed the world record. She finished in 25.50.

## Local Splashes

Arlington Aquatic Club's Katherine Radloff, 20, finished third in the C final of the women's 100 free in 3:56.08; in the C final of the 200 back, Andrew Relihan, 19, of the Rockville-Montgomery Swim Club

finished seventh in 2:05.18; Daniel Johnson, 21, of the University of Virginia was disqualified. North Baltimore Aquatic Club's Austin Surhoff, 18, finished fourth in the B final in 2:01.19. In the C final of the 200 breast, Virginia's John Azar finished eighth in 2:21.59.

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